

# In the Works

Public Works Employee Newsletter

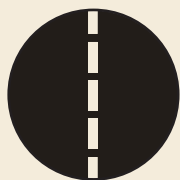


*Majed A. Al-Ghafry*

## *Message from the Director*

The 2009 fiscal year has come to a close and we accomplished many benchmarks throughout the Department of Public Works. A report of department accomplishments was compiled and some will be featured in the 2009 City's Annual Report. The following are just a few highlights from that report that I would like to share with you.

### Streets



Street Maintenance and Pavement Engineering completed 390 projects as part of the Infrastructure Management Program (IMP), completing a total of 451 lane miles of rehabilitated pavement throughout the City.

Right of Way Management administered 14,910 permits to right-of-way users and performed 403 pavement condition rating index (PCI) inspections were completed.

Project Management managed 112 Neighborhood Access and Mobility Program (NAMP) projects valuing \$4.29M, and managed four complete and two under construction Storm Water Revenue Bond projects totaling a value of \$39M.

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## *Message from the Director*

### **Storm Water**

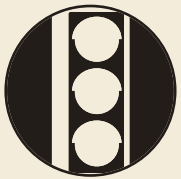


Storm Water Engineering began implementing improvements at various Low Water Crossings (LWC) as part of the City's first Low Water Crossing Remediation Plan. As a result, six LWC have received improvements and alternate routes to help redirect motorists around the LWC locations.

Storm Water Operations maintained 44 miles of creekways, mowed over 14,500 acres of vegetation, collected 11,500 tons of debris and cleaned 409,314 sq. ft. of sidewalk.

Central Mapping implemented a central repository system to maintain Public Works IMP related GIS data and updated the inventory of drainage infrastructure located City-wide, which enabled new development areas to be captured on GIS Street files. School zone signs and flashing beacons located City-wide were also identified using GPS data.

### **Transportation**



Traffic Management has timed and coordinated over 560 of the 1,260 traffic signal locations City-wide, as part of the Traffic Signal System Modernization (TSSM) program. Some of the highlighted corridors that have been completed include the San Pedro, Broadway, Perrin Beitel/Nacogdoches, General McMullen, and Babcock/Callaghan corridors.

Traffic Engineering/Design managed the implementation of 13.47 miles of sidewalks as part of the Infrastructure Management Program (IMP), completed 27 school zone flashing beacon designs, and the design and coordination of 20 miles of bicycle lanes.

Transportation Mobility and Planning collected 1,036 of 24-hour traffic volume counts, which are used to analyze changes in traffic controls and reviewed 57 Traffic Impact Studies to help ensure minimal negative impact from private development on public infrastructure.

Traffic Operations completed over 31 center line miles under the Pavement Markings Maintenance Program, produced 11,091 regulatory, warning and guide signs, and installed over 20 miles of ATD bike lane pavement markings.

Rail and Transit established the first two railroad quiet zones in San Antonio. The two quiet zones were implemented in District 8 (5 crossings from De Zavala Road to Dreamland Drive) and in District 2 (8 crossings from Burleson Street to Commerce Street).

The Disability Access Office in collaboration with Director's Office staff, created the first American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) Sidewalk Transition Plan. The plan's mission is to provide a walkable community environment of sidewalks and crosswalks that are ADA compliant and available to all citizens.

Thank you for all of your hard work. I know we will accomplish a lot more in FY 2010 together, as a team. Cheers!

## Robert A. Dimas, February 18, 1960 – July 23, 2009



On July 23, 2009, Robert A. Dimas lost his battle with cancer. Robert faced this battle as he had always lived his life with courage, dignity and quiet resolve. Robert joined the City of San Antonio Department of Public Works in June of 1982 as a Drafting Technician I. He remained with the department until his untimely death when he was working as a Senior Engineering Technician, a valued and respected member of the Traffic Management Division team. During those 27 years of service, Robert showed his commitment and dedication to a job well done.

On a personal level, Robert amazed all with his dedication to his family and his thorough knowledge of what was going on in the world. Robert had a strong sense of obligation and duty to his mother and younger siblings necessitated by his father's untimely death when Robert was still in his early 20's. Most evident of this was his guardianship of his sister's adolescent son after he attended to her during her own ordeal with terminal cancer. Also apparent about Robert, aside from his obvious "seasoned veteran's" impeccable knowledge of all things COSA, was his profound personal experience of all things "Texan / Tejano".

Apart from his own heritage of all things Mexican / Texican-American, Robert had managed to "sample a taste" of all things that "contemporary Texas" had to offer. Texas Monthly magazine and their 'Yuppie-Yankee' staffers couldn't hold a candle to his thorough experiences driving across those endless "miles and miles of Texas..."

Those who knew Robert throughout his 27 years in the department knew him as a fellow dedicated civil servant. It also became evident to them that Robert knew what it meant to "head out on the Highway". Whether on vacation or "over the weekend" he seemed to have traveled the length and breadth of our vast state --- fishing secluded lakes in South Texas, Texas Stadium trips to check out the Cowboys, Major League baseball games in Houston and Arlington, top-draw music concerts and shows in Houston, Dallas and Austin, Gulf Coast jaunts to Corpus, Aransas Pass and Padre Island, visits to the Rio Grande Valley and the Borderlands, traversing the Western High Plains headed to Ski-Country. Conversing with Robert it also became evident that his family and friends were an integral part of all his excursions.

Besides his times spent in the various metro areas of Texas, Robert had that "savvy" sense of what San Antonio is all about; North, South, East and West; that only comes to someone who was native to the area and who happened to have served this City for the better part of 27 years. Those of us that knew Robert considered him an esteemed co-worker and would like to believe we could live up to being his friend. To put it succinctly Robert possessed a quality that you don't necessarily find so evident today ---- Robert Dimas was a "Class Act".

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# In the Works

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## Staff in the Spotlight

I would like to thank the ARC team members for their hard work during this rotation period (April 2009 to September 2009). Keep up the good work and thank you for doing a great job!



(Back row: Edward Odis - Street Maintenance, Frank Lopez - Traffic Operations, Raul Gonzalez - Traffic Operations  
Front row: Jeanette Morin - CAT ARC Coordinator, David Hernandez - Street Maintenance, Abel Gonzalez - Storm Water)



## Ranch Burgers <http://allrecipes.com>



"The beef burgers stay juicy and delicious on the grill or stove top! Serve on buns with your favorite condiments."

### INGREDIENTS

2 pounds lean ground beef  
1 (1 ounce) package ranch dressing mix  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
3/4 cup crushed saltine crackers

1 onion, chopped

**DIRECTIONS:** 1. Preheat the grill for high heat. 2. In a bowl, mix the ground beef, ranch dressing mix, egg, crushed crackers, and onion. Form into hamburger patties. 3. Lightly oil the grill grate. Place patties on the grill, and cook 5 minutes per side, or until well done.



## Employee Appreciation Breakfast

On September 3, 2009 the Traffic Operations Division held it's 3rd annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast. Employees were treated to breakfast tacos, fruit, and drinks in appreciation for their hard work and dedication during the fiscal year. We look forward to another successful year!



## Sportsfest 2009

Congratulations to the following Public Works employees who participated in the Flag Football and Kickball.



### 2009 Flag Football Winners

**1st Place** - Parks & Rec.

**2nd Place** - Public Works

**3rd Place** - Convention Sports & Entertainment Facilities



### Kickball - June 25

**Congratulations Just for Kicks!**

**Just for Kicks**, lead by Public Works Team Captain Jeanette Morin, won first place at the Sportsfest Kickball Tournament on Saturday, July 25. They played five games in over 100 degree weather. Way to go team!



(back row from left to right) Martin Hernandez, Public Works; David Rangel, Public Works; Gabriel Morin, SAFD; Jeanette Morin, Public Works; James Pina, ITSD; Michelle Thomas; Human Resources; (front row from left to right) Angela Rangel, Parks; Rosalinda Mojica, Parks; and Adriana Goetz, Planning & Development Services; (not in picture) Blanca Boehm, Housing and Neighborhood Services.



## Did You Know This About Downtown San Antonio Parking Lots?

- As of 2006, there were a total of 80 lots in the downtown area, operated by 10 different entities.
- In order to keep parking lots safe and visually appealing, San Antonio City Codes require that the lots should:
  - be free of brush, weeds, broken glass, stumps, roots, obnoxious growths, filth, garbage, trash, refuse and debris
- For safety, the lots should not contain hazardous or unsanitary conditions, such as:
  - holes, excavations, breaks, projections and obstructions
- To ensure proper right of way on sidewalks, wheel stops should be placed a minimum of three feet from the property line, as to avoid excessive car “over hang”
- A fenced in border is a great way to avoid over hang, over growth and property line issues
- Sidewalks damaged by cars going in and out of parking lots should be repaired quickly to prevent pedestrian injury

Here are some examples of an ideal public parking lot:



Following these simple guidelines help to keep parking lots and the City of San Antonio clean and safe!

**Comic** <http://comics.com>





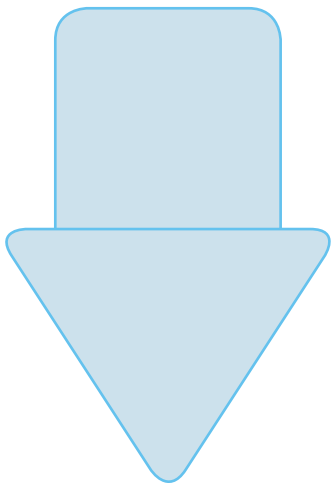
## Meadow Way Drainage Project

It is hard to remember the Floods of 2007 when we just finished a brutal summer of 58 days of 100+ degree temperatures and no significant rainfall for the past two years. However, when floods do occur it gives us the opportunity to identify projects. In 2007 two large drainage improvement projects were identified.

The Storm Water Operations Concrete and Pipe Repair Crew have done an exceptional job of reconstructing the Meadow Way Drainage Project and have recently begun construction on the West Campus Drainage Project. Both of these major drainage projects were a direct result of the 2007 floods.



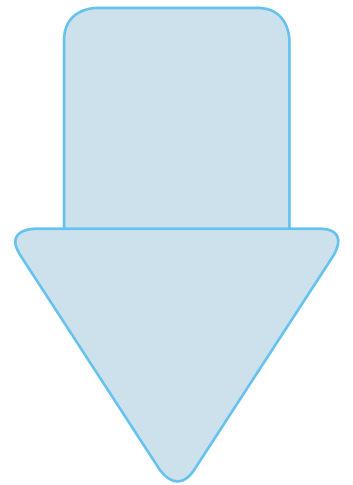
The Concrete and Pipe Repair Crew began construction on the Meadow Way Drainage Project on April 27, 2009 and recently completed the project on August 15, 2009. This project consisted of replacing the existing 36" corrugated metal culvert pipes with concrete culvert boxes; reconstructing the wing walls, outfall structures, pedestrian sidewalks and bridge structure. The asphalt roadway was also replaced with a concrete driving surface. Storm Water Operations Channel Restoration Crews also made necessary stabilization repairs to the drainage channel banks and restored the channel to its original condition.



## Meadow Way Drainage Project



Construction on the West Campus Drainage Project was started on August 24, 2009 and is currently at 20% complete. This project consists of installing additional concrete culvert boxes to increase storm flow capacity; reconstructing pedestrian sidewalks, wing walls, and outfall structures. The asphalt roadway will also be replaced with a concrete driving surface. This project is expected to be completed in early to mid November 2009.



In both of these projects, Storm Water Operations personnel have excelled in meeting project timelines and providing the City of San Antonio with the highest possible quality and workmanship.





## Storm Water Operations United Way Campaign Softball Tournament



**1st Place - SE Wildbunch**



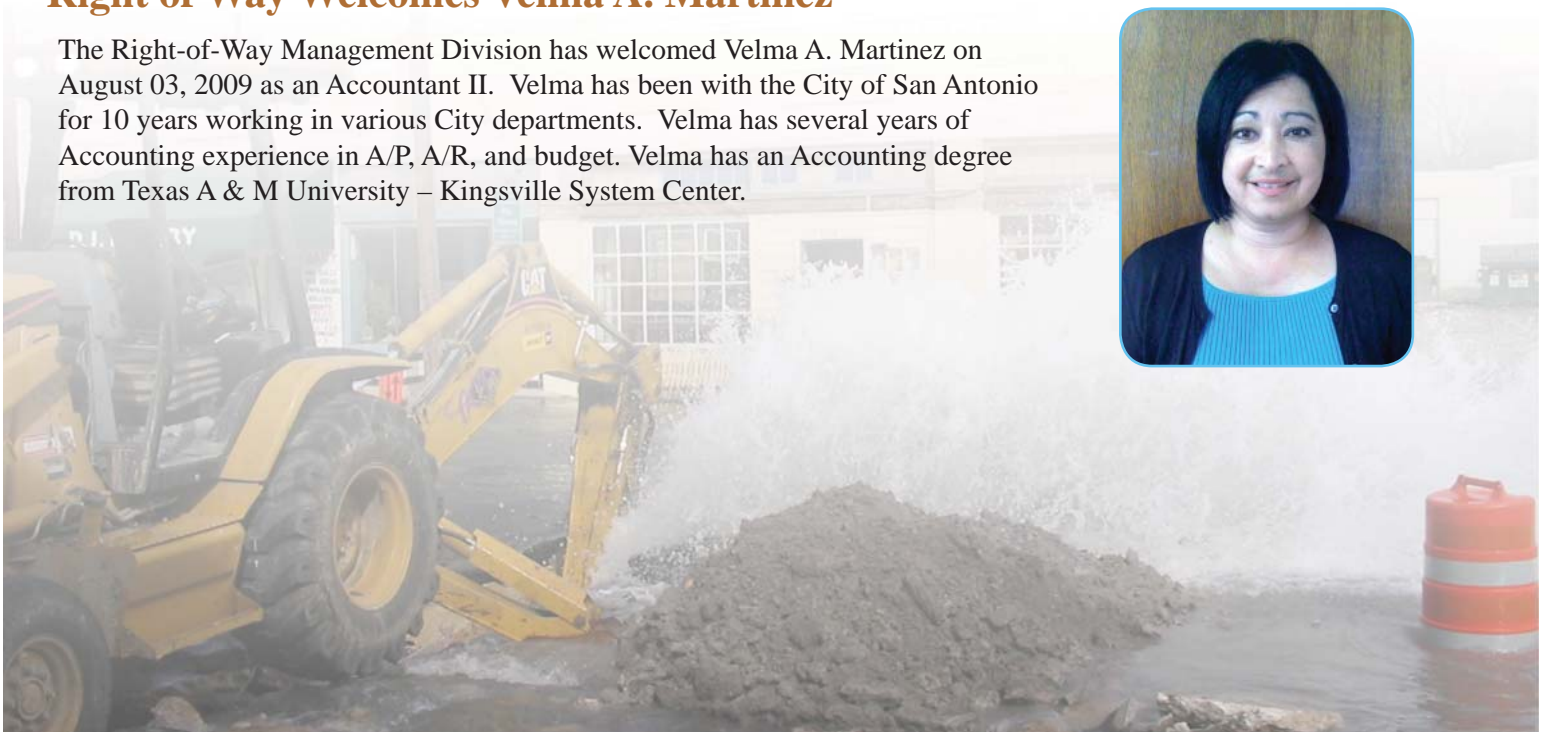
**2nd Place - The Renagades**



**3rd Place - Traffic Operations**

## Right of Way Welcomes Velma A. Martinez

The Right-of-Way Management Division has welcomed Velma A. Martinez on August 03, 2009 as an Accountant II. Velma has been with the City of San Antonio for 10 years working in various City departments. Velma has several years of Accounting experience in A/P, A/R, and budget. Velma has an Accounting degree from Texas A & M University – Kingsville System Center.



## Public Works Welcomes a New Member



We would like to extend a big welcome to a new member of the Public Works family. **Selina Rocha** is the new Administrative Associate for the Director's Office and will be primarily providing administrative support for Assistant Directors Anthony Chukwudolue and Richard Mendoza. Selina comes to us from the Department of Community Initiatives where she worked for the Center for Working Families. She has been an employee of the City since 2007. Selina has a 15 year old son Justin and a 10 year old daughter Andree' with her husband of 22 years Jesse. Welcome Selina!

## Special Thanks to Diana Garza



We would also like to thank **Diana Garza** who has been filling in until the position could be filled. We appreciate all her hard work and thank the Storm Water Operating Division for lending her to us. We will miss you and thank for all your help.